



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

HANFORD MISSION

**HMiS**

INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

# MISSION: PROTECT

Our team protects what we are building together across our scope on the Hanford Site.



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



I am proud to lead our HMIS team and want to thank you for seeing why it's important to protect what we are building together.

We have established ourselves as a critical teammate in the cleanup mission, driven by our commitment to excellence, teamwork and innovation. We enable progress across the Site and consistently deliver exceptional results.

As our scope becomes increasingly complex and sometimes unpredictable, this team remains vigilant to protect our interests and the interests of our customers and the community. Adhering to the highest ethical standards, complying with legal and regulatory requirements, and being proactive in identifying and mitigating potential risks make HMIS a valuable One Hanford partner.

Thank you for seeing value in our mission, knowing the importance of safety and choosing to be part of the Hanford legacy. We will continue to improve and succeed through collective dedication to safeguarding our people, resources and reputation. I look forward to moving the mission forward with you.

Stay safe!

Bob

Hyperlink  
to this page

Guest Message – Lorie Blehm

To Protect – to Safeguard, Secure and Provide Emergency Response

This month's theme, "protect," is perfectly captured in our organization's title, Safeguards, Security and Emergency Response. It's what we do. We protect. We protect our workers, government assets and the environment.

Our Safeguards staff stands ready to protect special materials, information and, above all, our people. The Hanford Fire Department works tirelessly to be able to respond 24/7 to any medical, fire or hazardous material event that may occur on Site or in nearby communities.

Our Emergency Management and Preparedness organization works around the clock to ensure we have a highly qualified team of responders who will react and respond to Site emergencies

and keep our people and our local communities as safe as possible. In my current role as the deputy vice president of SS&ER, I am proud to say we execute this mission with the highest level of commitment and professionalism.

As I thought about what I would say in this message, it occurred to me that all of us, not just the SS&ER organization, protect many other things. We protect what we value, which is not always something tangible. In our lives, both professionally and personally, we protect our integrity, honor, commitments, relationships and, most importantly, our families. I'm thankful to be part of an organization dedicated to the safety and security of the Hanford cleanup mission.







The Hanford Patrol Special Response Team conducting vehicle assault training.



Hanford Patrol SRT graduates (front, from left) Ofc. Eric Magallanes, Ofc. Adam Baker, Lt. Chris Lewis, Ofc. Luis Blanco and PTA Instructor Capt. TJ Rabe, (back, from left) Ofc. Emilio Valladares, Ofc. Evan York, Lt. Phillip Vorheis, Capt. Eric Meyers, PTA Instructor Kurt Bearchum, Ofc. Jeremy Jalali, PTA Instructor Ryan Moore and PTA Instructor Calvin Nash.

# MISSION: PROTECT

## Hanford Patrol Graduates Special Response Team

*Contributor: Kyle Hiller*

Nine members of our Hanford Patrol recently graduated from the Special Response Team (SRT) Basic Course conducted at the Patrol Training Academy. Following an extensive selection process, which includes physical performance,

weapons proficiency and oral interviews, candidates are chosen to attend the SRT Basic Course where they receive some of the most advanced tactical and counter-terrorism training available.

While many municipal law enforcement SWAT basic courses are 5 to 6 days in duration, the Hanford Patrol Basic Course runs nearly seven weeks, resulting in an exceptionally skilled response force

dedicated to the Hanford Site. During training, students are challenged with increasingly difficult tasks focused on close quarters combat, breaching and de-escalation operations. Failure of any task could result in a candidate being dropped from the course.

Though the SRT’s primary mission is the protection of Hanford Site assets, they are also trained in hostage rescue, active

assailant and crisis response. In addition to having served on Hanford Patrol, all recent graduates have backgrounds in military or with state law enforcement agencies. Patrol Training Academy SRT instructors bring similar backgrounds and extensive knowledge and experience in SRT operations, allowing them to successfully train the new generation of SRT members.

SRT Commander, Major Justin Donica, said of this most recent class, “There was no requirement or incentive for these officers to attend this demanding course. Each volunteered to become a member of a team of critical thinking professionals dedicated to the protection of Hanford.”



MISSION: PROTECT

We’ve Got This!

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Living the “proud but not satisfied” mentality, our Electrical Utilities team found a way to avoid yearly costs by learning a new skill to complete a job in-house, instead of by a third-party.

Back in 2020, MSA acquired a huge machine to test “hot sticks,” giving crews the ability to scan their entire inventory of hot sticks in a week, instead of a month. Hot sticks are fiberglass poles used in the field and at electrical substations to protect workers from a shock or the risk of an arc flash.

Hot sticks are a critical safety component and must be tested yearly to ensure structural integrity.

The hot stick machine itself must be calibrated yearly to confirm it’s also in working order. To do this, a vendor had to travel to Hanford to adjust it and a second machine that tests electrical workers’ gloves. Both are critical to safety since most power lines



Sean Thomas examines the hot stick machine, used to test safety gear used by electrical workers.



on the Hanford Site carry a voltage up to 13,800 volts or as high as 230,000 volts. (High voltage is anything over about 600 volts).

Just like our SIMPLE values promote, a culture of learning encouraged substation electricians to learn how to do the calibration themselves. Using leased equipment that’s a fraction of the cost of an onsite vendor visit, our team is now trained in the hot stick and glove machine calibration and also wrote a procedure to accompany it. This avoids thousands in future annual costs to keep the machines at optimal function.

Thanks to EU personnel for not only thinking of the process, but also providing a way to enhance it!

MISSION: PROTECT

Stretch to Fit

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

A simple tent fabric replacement turned into anything but when our teams arrived to install the new material onto a structure known as 2715EF, or the “painters tent” in 200 East. The tent is used to paint items created in the 2266E fabrication shop, like wooden stairs and a landing, non-skid coverings for mobile office entrance decks and more.

“The crew did an excellent job,” said Tom Folger, Maintenance Services. “This was not an easy, cookie cutter installation. The covers that were ordered did not fit perfectly in any way, shape or form.”

Led by Crane & Rigging with support from carpenters and sheet metal workers, and under Tom’s supervision, the team removed the existing cover and used a crane to place the material over the structure while also relocating the end caps with the entry doors. This was all done in just one day, and just in time before expected high winds.

“I appreciate the dedication the crew showed,” said Tom. “They pushed through a difficult installation, thinking outside the box and staying until the project was complete. The installation now looks like the covers were designed for the structure.”

Watch the tent being put together from daylight to darkness in just 30 seconds [here](#).



Teams built a painters tent in a single day, skillfully stretching new fabric into place so that it appears custom-designed for the structure.





# MISSION: PROTECT

## Team Focus – West Custodial

### Custodial Team Tames the Wild West (Area)

Contributor: Jill Harvill

Protect. Our theme this month features stories on the many ways HMIS protects our people, environment and work. Custodial Supervisor Hoyt Mitchell and his team of 19 custodians protect the health and safety of employees on the west side of the Hanford Site.

The West Custodial team is strategically positioned to provide timely, thorough services that help maintain the cleanliness of restrooms, kitchens, offices and other spaces in 115 buildings. That includes buildings from 100K to the 222-S Labs and support for almost every prime contractor.

“We try to keep custodians in the same area so we get to know our customers, the facility and any hazards in that area,” said Mitchell. There is longevity with this team as well. Three of the top five custodians on the seniority list are on the West team and have worked here for 32 (Joanne Hiltwein), 30 (Shana Robledo) and 18 (Michele Clark) years.

A recent success was adding weekend shifts to meet Site demands. Custodial staff are now on Site 20 hours a day Monday through Thursday and on day shift Friday through Sunday. Custodial Services is one of the few crafts that doesn’t have to wait for a work package – they start their shift and clean right from one area to the next. This schedule is especially helpful for the 24/7 mission.

We'll give you one guess on the one thing custodians want us to know, and you've probably seen this sign before: “Your mother doesn’t work here.” It’s just a friendly reminder to workers to be good custodians of the spaces and materials we use every day. And a second thing - don’t be afraid to interrupt their work and say hi. Staff usually work in the same buildings for a long time, so get to know them!



Members of the West Custodial team gather for their morning meeting before setting out for the day.



Transportation Services teams tackle snowy conditions on the Site this winter.

# MISSION: PROTECT

## Aligning Resources to Increase Safety

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Spring has sprung and that’s brought an end to daily calls intended on lowering the risk of winter’s effects, namely from snow and ice. As the Hanford Site integrator, our Transportation Services team began hosting a daily call to look ahead to the following workday and align resources to mitigate potential weather events.

The “Winter Mitigation Calls” took place over Teams and included an operations manager or director from CPCCo, HLMI, HMIS, WRPS, WTP and WTCC. Led by Transportation Services Director Brian Bergum, the discussion went over the upcoming forecast and occupied worksite locations to determine coverage of all appropriate areas.

A harsh December with snow and ice that lingered for weeks led the number of slips, trip and falls to increase. But with initiation of the standing call, the number of reported incidents decreased.

“The team believes the ongoing Winter Mitigation Call was a success, our resources were aligned, areas were covered and the outcome was evident,” said Bergum.

HMIS plans on continuing the daily call next season and will implement the Winter Mitigation Call into Hanford’s annual snow plan.

**“...Your team’s diligent efforts to maintain our roadways, remove snow and ice from walkways, and keep the site’s critical infrastructure operating is commendable. It’s not lost on us that working outside in those conditions is no easy task. That, along with working around the clock - including weekends and throughout the holiday period - required some level of personal sacrifice.**

**Thanks to HMIS, our employees experienced safe commuting conditions, parking lots and walkways, thereby allowing us to continually protect the well-being of our workforce.”**

**John R. Eschenberg, President and Project Manager, CPCCo**





HMIS Procurement team members (from left) Beau Calamayan, Justin Matzen, Carissa Pitzer and Mari Clark spent the day connecting with dozens of small business owners and representatives during the symposium.



HMIS Procurement Director Melissa Demiter (third from right) participated in a panel discussion during one of the symposium's breakout sessions.

## Bridging Partnerships to Ensure Small Business Success

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

Ask any businessperson, and they will tell you nothing beats meeting with a potential client face-to-face. That's why HMIS Small Business Program manager Amy Justice was so excited about the return of the Bridging Partnerships Small Business Symposium after a pandemic-induced hiatus. "It's been three years since we've had a chance to meet with a lot of these folks in an environment like this," Justice shared. "It was great to connect with them and talk more about their interest in performing work at Hanford and supporting the HMIS mission."

More than 300 people attended the conference, organized by the Hanford Small Business Council with some assistance from the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. It's a great opportunity for prime contractors like HMIS to meet with small businesses in the area and learn more about the work they do and how it might fit with our work scope.

"Sometimes these small businesses are a little hesitant because of the rules and regulations that come with working with the federal government," Justice added. "We can often help them overcome that fear and let them know this is a great market to grow their company."

The two-day event also featured an opportunity for participants to take a bus tour of the Hanford Site, along with several panel discussions, breakout sessions and a business opportunity expo.

## The Size of a Whale, The Speed of a Tortoise

*Contributor: Robin Wojtanik*

If a crawler crane leaves the Central Waste Complex traveling at the speed a crane crawls, and a person leaves the same location walking at the speed a person walks, who gets to the Canister Storage Building first?

"The person," said Sean McFadden, director of Crane & Rigging Services. "You could walk faster than this crane crawls."

Because of that, our C&R and Transportation Services teams worked together to disassemble, relocate and reassemble a crawler crane. Able to lift about 200-tons, the crane is as heavy as a blue whale and probably moves about as fast as a whale would on land. When it's needed at another location across the Hanford Site, it's taken apart rather than driven. This includes removing the counterweights and boom, safely loading it for transport, and hauling it where it needs to go.

This time, the disassembly took place at the CWC and the huge rig was reassembled at the CSB. "This evolution took four tractor trailers to relocate the crawler crane and one 80-ton assist crane, plus multiple crews," said Sean. "C&R utilized this crane



Crane & Rigging and Transportation Services moved a crane weighing about 300,000 pounds (when assembled) across the Hanford Site after disassembling and transporting it.



while providing support to CPCCo offloading 18 vertical concrete casks weighing about 140,000 pounds each." The casks will store capsules coming out of the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility.



## RECOGNITION



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Christopher Cope Industrial Safety

This month we are highlighting Christopher Cope, a steadfast supporter of several local organizations. He described his experience with giving back:

“Volunteering with charities has always been an important part of my life. I love to get involved and help those in need, whether it is through providing financial assistance or simply offering my time. It gives me a sense of satisfaction knowing that I am making a difference in someone else’s life.

Being involved with charities also provides me the opportunity to meet new people and build relationships with them. I have made some wonderful friends through my volunteer work, and it has opened many doors for me in the process.

I firmly believe that getting involved in helping charities is one of the most rewarding experiences one can have. Not only do you get to make a positive impact on others’ lives, but you also get to learn more about yourself and develop your skillset at the same time.



Working with great organizations such as Special Olympics Washington, Wishing Star Foundation, Associated General Contractors of America Charities, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels and Partners ‘N Pals has been an incredible experience for me.”

Thank you, Christopher, for making a continued impact on our local community!

## RECOGNITION



### Volunteer of the Quarter



*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month and our HMIS Family of volunteers is simply the best! Since the start of the new contract, 335 HMIS employees and their loved ones have donated more than 1,220 hours of time to help at 21 HMIS-organized volunteer events, supporting local organizations like Second Harvest, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity and several others.

This month, we recognize Cindy Hemsworth, a longtime member of our HMIS Family who consistently makes a commitment to volunteer her time. Cindy has volunteered at several events over the last year, including Second Harvest food sorts and the Bikes for Tikes build event. After 37 years at Hanford, Cindy plans to head off to retirement this spring.

“I really enjoy volunteering because it’s so easy to do and the only cost is your time,” Cindy shared. “But it can have such a tremendous impact on the organizations that you’re helping and can really make a difference in our community.”



To recognize our Volunteers of the Quarter, HMIS will make a \$250 donation to the non-profit 501(c)3 organization of their choice. For this quarter, Cindy has asked that the contribution go to the Gesa Carousel of Dreams in Kennewick, where she also serves as a volunteer.

We are so proud of our HMIS Family and their commitment to serve our community. Thank you!





(Top, L-R): Camron Ball, Paul Ellis, Phillip Smith, Felipe Magana, Amanda Vassey, Adrian Guerra and Jesse Mendez. (Bottom, L-R): Jennifer Torres, Austin Clement, Macie Pichette and Vanessa Rodriguez



Three co-op interns worked with Internal Audit and shared how learning federal acquisition register clauses expanded their learning (and some could even name a favorite clause when asked by HMIS President Bob Wilkinson). L to R: Subcontract Audit Manager Denton Romans, intern Courtney Wilkinson, IA Director Jillian Esparza, interns Amanda Vassey, Adrian Guerra and Macie Pichette and Annual Audit Manager Ashton Arellano.

# RECOGNITION

## Co-Op Interns Learn Culture, Transferrable Skills

*Contributor: Reneé Brooks*

Congratulations to the 12 HMIS Co-Op interns graduating this year! During presentations to leadership, they shared the projects they worked on, as well as lessons learned. Many interns learned the differences in classroom theory versus on-the-job application and how to merge those for better success. Another shared lesson was learning the art and importance of work-life balance.

One common observation shared by many of these graduating interns is something we can all take pride in – the work culture we’ve created at HMIS. Jesse Mendez was surprised by the “very nurturing leadership” he encountered, while Phillip Smith appreciated the “welcoming environment where everyone is helpful and supportive.”

This year’s graduating class of interns is our largest and most diverse yet. They include traditional college students who started right after high school graduation and those who took time for other life experiences, including military service

or working in Nicaragua with “Engineers without Borders.” Some are first-generation U.S. citizens, first-generation college students, parents or single parents.

They are future engineers, cybersecurity experts, ethics professionals, change agents, business managers and more. The interns may be hoping to stay at HMIS, enter private industry or even leave the area to explore new options. Whatever their futures hold, we appreciate their dedication to learning and continuous improvement, as well as their service to the One Hanford mission, and we wish them all great success!

# RECOGNITION



## Weapons Knowledge Sets Foundation for Armory Success

*Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg*

As Hanford Patrol’s lead armorer, Captain Steve Roberts is also the most senior armorer and gunsmith in the entire DOE complex. His daily assignments include certifying and maintaining all weapons for the protective force at Hanford. A valuable member of Patrol for 36 years, Captain Roberts is also a member of Hanford’s Special Response Team and a precision rifle instructor.

Recently, Roberts’ technical expertise and extensive knowledge of DOE armorer operations proved to be an invaluable asset to other DOE protective force operations. Captain Roberts was recognized in a letter of appreciation from Los Alamos National Laboratory for his support in the development of a detailed certification documentation process of their weapons and armorer functions.

Additionally, he personally certified several hundred of their duty firearms. He was acknowledged for his “professionalism, selflessness and team-oriented attitude,” as well as having “established the foundation for success in armory operations.”



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Gala Supports Grief Center

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

HMIS’ sponsorship of Chaplaincy Health Care helped its Heart of Healing fundraising gala, which supports kids from our community who are grieving a loss. The night featured original artwork by children served at Cork’s Place Kids Grief Center, which offers grief services at no cost to families thanks to events like this one. This year’s gala raised nearly \$90,000 for Cork’s Place.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Cleaning Up Leslie Groves to Celebrate Earth Month

Contributor: Shane Edinger

April is Earth Month and dozens of employees from HMIS, WRPS, CPCCo, HLMI, HPMC and DOE joined forces in honor of Earth Day to help clean up a portion of Richland’s Leslie Groves Park. Toting garbage bags and trash pickers, the team of volunteers filled dozens of bags with litter, clearing up a wide swath of the north end of the park.

Scott Davis is part of HMIS’ Environmental Management System and Sustainability team and helped to organize the One Hanford collaboration. “Hanford’s environmental stewardship practices are incorporated in all our activities, processes and operations at work,” Davis shared. “We believe the way we interact with the environment should be reviewed for our off-work activities as well. This park cleanup was a great opportunity to conduct an activity in an environmentally positive and responsible way.”





